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INFO & NEWS

from the

Indiana Senate

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



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Serving District 5 in Jasper, LaPorte,
Marshall, Porter, St. Joseph & Starke Counties



Sen. Heinold visits with a page during a session day. Pages serve important roles in the day-to-day functions of the Indiana Senate. For more information about serving as a page for Sen. Heinold, visit www.in.gov/S5.

Did You Know...?

... that the Indiana Senate spent prudently this past year, resulting in a return of \$903,572.84 to the state's General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2006. This is more than four times the amount reverted in FY 2005.

How to contact Senator Vic Heinold

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CALL, TOLL-FREE:
1-800-382-9467

E-MAIL VIA MY WEB SITE AT:
WWW.IN.GOV/S5

Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

- Sysco announcing the construction of a 700,000 square foot distribution warehouse in Hamlet. The operation will create 500 jobs for residents of Starke County and surrounding areas.

rounding areas.

- Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)
- Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis
- Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis.
- Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute
- Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.
- Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility
- Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

INDIANA'S EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In 2005, the General Assembly made an important change to the way our K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that allows a school's appropriations to rise and fall in proportion to enrollment.

Dollars now follow the child rather than being arbitrarily given to corporations. In 2006, we passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, and other needs. Currently, only 61% of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

In 2007, I expect to see more school issues brought forth. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten. Most states now fully or partially fund all-day kindergarten (FDK). The additional hours of learning FDK offers puts

children further ahead when they enter first grade. That allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.

Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million. The budget deficit of years past has prevented the legislature from offering funding, but thanks to smart spending in the 2005 budget, some believe there could be enough cash available to fund FDK.

Another issue I expect to see is performance-based pay for teachers. Indiana is currently the only state in the nation forbidden from using student performance for teacher evaluations. Performance-based pay could serve as an incentive for teachers to better prepare their students.

I look forward to these debates and will continue to cast my votes with the best interest of students at heart.

Energy Incentives to Fuel State Economy

Construction of Alternative Fuel Plants Brings Promise of Jobs and Dollars to Indiana

The General Assembly has passed several alternative fuel incentives in recent legislative sessions that have placed Indiana at the top of the biofuels industry. Ethanol and biodiesel burn cleaner, reduce the state's dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase economic opportunities for our state.

Ethanol and biodiesel production have a very positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key dynamics associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends almost 50 percent of corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers. It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Indiana has 15 ethanol plants announced or under construction, which will produce 840 million gallons of ethanol. The new ethanol and biodiesel plants will put an estimated \$17.5 mil-

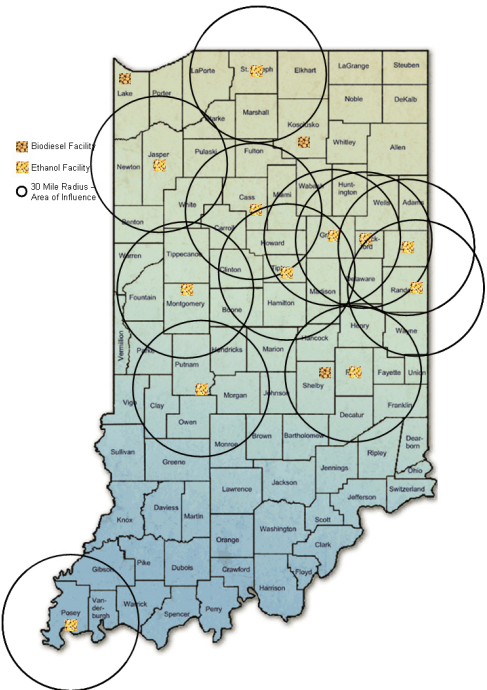
lion into Hoosier farmers' pockets while investing more than \$1.27 billion in capital expenses.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling stations. There are more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E-85 pumps across the state. With this amazing progress in such a short time, I am very encouraged that these proposals can take us even further. I am very proud that Indiana is a national leader in alternative fuels. I am extremely encouraged that legislation I co-sponsored during the past two sessions is now proving to pay off with the construction of the new biofuel plants.

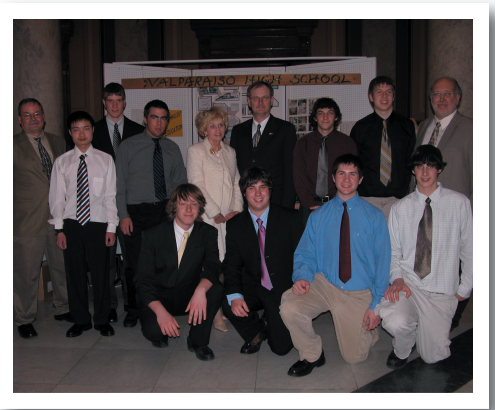
E85 FUEL STATIONS IN DISTRICT 5:

Citgo
12495 Mckinley Hwy
Mishawaka

Gas City
1441 West U.S. 20
Porter



This graphic highlights locations of biofuel plant construction statewide. The current number is expected to increase over the next several years.



Sen. Heinold is pictured with students from Valparaiso High School. The group, comprised of technical high school students, visited with and were recognized by Sen. Heinold at the Statehouse during the 2005 legislative session.

Cracking Down on Voter Fraud

Voter ID Law to Affect November Election

This November, Hoosiers will have the opportunity to exercise one of their most precious freedoms available—the vote.

It is the Legislature's responsibility to adopt policies that protect our representative democracy by ensuring each vote cast is valid and legal. The General Assembly did just that during the 2005 Legislative Session, passing a law that mandates that all voters must now present a photo ID in order to cast a vote.

Years ago, poll workers knew the people in their precinct and had no reason to question someone's identity. Now, it is increasingly common for Election Day volunteers to live in another town or city than the one in which they are serving. The voter ID law gives poll workers a tool to verify a person's identity.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has agreed to grant photo IDs free of charge to those who can-

not pay the \$9 fee. In order to better accommodate Indiana voters, BMV branches will be open the day before the election and will remain open late on Election Day. Residents of state-licensed nursing homes are exempt from showing identification if the polling place is located inside the facility in which they live. The bill also protects the rights of those who have a religious objection to being photographed.

Voters who show up at the polls without identification will be able to fill out a provisional ballot. They then will be required to visit the county clerk or election board's office and show an ID or object on religious grounds.

I am proud to have authored Indiana's Voter ID law, and am pleased that my colleagues in the General Assembly recognize its importance. Photo IDs are required for many commonplace circumstances that Americans face every day, like renting a video or obtaining a library card. It only makes sense that a photo ID be required for something as important as voting.

